

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method of generating an information disclosure statement ("IDS"), the method comprising:
 - providing, at a client system, a search interface to allow a user to search one or more data sources for potential prior art references;
 - receiving, at the client system, input from a user indicating that the user has identified an electronic document as a prior art reference, the electronic document comprising a set of IDS information for identifying the prior art reference to an official patent office;
 - in response to the input, transmitting a signal from the client system, the signal indicating that the user has identified the prior art reference;
 - receiving the signal at a server system comprising a database;
 - receiving, at a data processing system comprising a first database, a signal from a client system, the signal indicating that a user has identified an electronic document containing reference information to be disclosed to a patent office, the reference information comprising a set of IDS information that can be used to create an IDS for disclosing the electronic document to an official patent office;
 - in response to the signal, accessing the electronic document, with the server system, at a first data source ~~second database~~ external to the server data processing system;
 - loading into the first database at least a portion of the electronic document,
 - wherein the at least a portion of the electronic document comprises the IDS information;
 - accessing an electronic IDS corresponding to a patent application; and
 - adding the IDS information to the electronic IDS, ~~IDS via an automated process at the server system;~~

wherein the electronic document includes information corresponding to a plurality of fields in the electronic IDS, and wherein adding the IDS information to the electronic IDS comprises extracting the IDS information, via the automated process at the server system, from the electronic document and storing the IDS information, via the automated process and in a format specified by the official patent office, in a corresponding plurality of fields in the electronic IDS.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
storing a reference link to the electronic document in a reference table;
storing an identifier corresponding to a patent case ~~a reference to each of one or more patent cases~~ in a case number table; and
associating linking the reference link in the reference table to the identifier ~~each of the references to of the one or more patent cases~~ in the case number table.

4. – 6. (Canceled)

7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising providing a create prompt ~~to for~~ the user to provide the input for generating the create signal.

8. (Original) The method of claim 7 wherein the create prompt comprises an electronic button.

9. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the first data source ~~second database~~ is coupled to the remote server system over a computer network.

10. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising providing access to the electronic IDS to multiple users over a network.

11. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising electronically transmitting the electronic IDS to a patent office.

12. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising:
receiving at the server system a second signal indicating that a patent application corresponding to the electronic information disclosure statement is being electronically filed in a patent office; and
electronically transmitting the IDS to the patent office contemporaneously with the patent application.
13. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the electronic document is an electronic version of a United States Patent.
14. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the electronic document is an electronic version of a foreign patent document.
15. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the electronic document is an electronic version of a publication.
16. (Currently amended) A computer-implemented method of generating an information disclosure statement ("IDS"), the method comprising:
providing, at a client system, a search interface to allow a user to search one or more data sources for potential prior art references;
receiving, at the client system, input from a user indicating that the user has identified an electronic document as a prior art reference, the electronic document comprising a set of IDS information for identifying the prior art reference to an official patent office;
in response to the input, transmitting a signal from the client system, the signal indicating that the user has identified the prior art reference;
receiving the signal at a server system comprising a database;
receiving, at a data processing system comprising a first database, a signal from a client system, the signal indicating that a user has identified an electronic document containing reference information to be disclosed to a patent office, the reference information comprising a

~~set of IDS information that can be used to create an IDS for disclosing the electronic document to an official patent office;~~

in response to the signal, accessing the ~~electronic document~~ document, with the server system, at a first data source ~~second database~~ external to the ~~server data processing~~ system;

loading into the ~~first~~ database at least a portion of the electronic document, wherein the at least a portion of the electronic document comprises the IDS information;

storing, in a reference table, a reference link to the electronic document;

~~associating, linking,~~ in a case table, the reference link with an identifier corresponding to a first case; ~~case to the reference link;~~ and

adding the IDS information ~~for to~~ an electronic IDS for the ~~first case;~~ case via an automated process at the server system;

wherein the electronic document includes information corresponding to a plurality of fields in the electronic IDS, and wherein adding the IDS information to the electronic IDS comprises extracting the IDS information, via the automated process at the server system, from the electronic document and storing the IDS information, via the automated process and in a format specified by the official patent office, in a corresponding plurality of fields in the electronic IDS.

17. (Canceled)

18. (Previously presented) The method of claim 16 further comprising:

storing one or more cited reference links to a plurality of electronic documents in a cited references table, the cited reference links indicating that the plurality of electronic documents that have been cited to a patent office,

wherein the IDS information is added to the electronic IDS only if the electronic IDS has a reference link in the reference table but does not have a cited reference link in the cited reference table.

19. (Previously presented) The method of claim 16 wherein the electronic document is an electronic version of a United States Patent.

20. (Previously presented) The method of claim 16 wherein the electronic document is an electronic version of a foreign patent document.

21. (Previously presented) The method of claim 16 wherein the electronic document is an electronic version of a publication.

22. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein accessing an electronic IDS comprises creating the electronic IDS.

23. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein adding the IDS information to the electronic IDS comprises storing in the electronic IDS a pointer to the IDS information.

24. (Canceled)

25. (Previously presented) The method of claim 16, wherein adding the IDS information to the electronic IDS comprises storing in the electronic IDS a pointer to the IDS information.

26. (Previously presented) The method of claim 16, further comprising creating the electronic IDS.

27. (Currently Amended) A server computer system for generating an electronic information disclosure statement ("IDS") the computer system comprising:

a processor;

a ~~first~~ database in communication with the processor; and

a computer readable medium in communication with the processor, the computer readable medium having a set of instructions executable by the processor, the set of instructions comprising:

(i) ~~instructions to receive~~ receive, at the server computer system, a
signal from a client system, the signal indicating that a user has identified an electronic document
as a prior art reference, the electronic document comprising a set of IDS information for
identifying the prior art reference to an official patent office; ~~containing reference information to~~
~~be disclosed to a patent office, the reference information comprising a set of IDS information~~
~~that can be used to create an IDS for disclosing the electronic document to an official patent~~
~~office;~~

(ii) instructions to access, in response to the signal, the electronic
document at a ~~data source second database~~ external to the server computer system;

(iii) instructions to load into the ~~first~~ database at least a portion of the
electronic document, wherein the at least a portion of the electronic document comprises the IDS
information;

(iv) instructions to access an electronic IDS corresponding to a patent
application; and

(v) instructions to add the IDS information to the electronic ~~IDS~~ IDS
via an automated process at the server computer system;

wherein the electronic document includes information corresponding to a
plurality of fields in the electronic IDS, and wherein the instructions to add the IDS information
to the electronic IDS comprise instructions to extract the IDS information, via the automated
process at the server system, from the electronic document and instructions to store the IDS
information, via the automated process and in a format specified by the official patent office, in a
corresponding plurality of fields in the electronic IDS.

28. (Currently Amended) A server computer system for generating an electronic
information disclosure statement ("IDS") the computer system comprising:

a processor;

a ~~first~~ database in communication with the processor; and

a computer readable medium in communication with the processor, the computer readable medium having a set of instructions executable by the processor, the set of instructions comprising:

(i) instructions to ~~receive~~ receive, at the server computer system, a signal from a client system, the signal indicating that a user has identified an electronic document as a prior art reference, the electronic document comprising a set of IDS information for identifying the prior art reference to an official patent office; ~~containing reference information to be disclosed to a patent office, the reference information comprising a set of IDS information that can be used to create an IDS for disclosing the electronic document to an official patent office;~~

(ii) instructions to access, in response to the signal, the electronic document at a data source external to the computer system;

(iii) instructions to load into the first database at least a portion of the electronic document, wherein the at least a portion of the electronic document comprises the IDS information;

(iv) instructions to store, in a reference table, a reference link to the electronic document;

(v) instructions to associate, link, in a case table, the reference link with an identifier corresponding to a first case; ~~case to the reference link;~~ and

(vi) instructions to add the IDS information for the electronic document to an electronic IDS for the first ~~case~~ case via an automated process at the server system;

wherein the electronic document includes information corresponding to a plurality of fields in the electronic IDS, and wherein the instructions to add the IDS information to the electronic IDS comprise instructions to extract the IDS information, via the automated process at the server system, from the electronic document and instructions to store the IDS information, via the automated process and in a format specified by the official patent office, in a corresponding plurality of fields in the electronic IDS.

29. (Currently Amended) A computer ~~program~~ program, stored on a computer readable memory, for generating an electronic information disclosure statement ("IDS"), the computer program comprising a set of instructions executable by one or more processors in a server computer system, the set of instructions comprising:

instructions to ~~receive~~ receive, at the server computer system, a signal from a client system, the signal indicating that a user has identified an electronic document as a prior art reference, the electronic document comprising a set of IDS information for identifying the prior art reference to an official patent office; ~~containing reference information to be disclosed to a patent office, the reference information comprising a set of IDS information that can be used to create an IDS for disclosing the electronic document to an official patent office;~~

instructions to access, in response to the signal, the electronic document at a data source ~~second database~~ external to the server computer system;

instructions to load into the ~~first~~ database at least a portion of the electronic document, wherein the at least a portion of the electronic document comprises the IDS information;

instructions to access an electronic IDS corresponding to a patent application; and

instructions to add the IDS information to the electronic ~~IDS~~; IDS via an automated process at the server computer system;

wherein the electronic document includes information corresponding to a plurality of fields in the electronic IDS, and wherein the instructions to add the IDS information to the electronic IDS comprise instructions to extract the IDS information, via the automated process at the server system, from the electronic document and instructions to store the IDS information, via the automated process and in a format specified by the official patent office, in a corresponding plurality of fields in the electronic IDS.

30. (Previously presented) A computer ~~program~~ program, stored on a computer readable memory, for generating an electronic information disclosure statement ("IDS"), the computer program comprising a set of instructions executable by one or more processors in a server computer system, the set of instructions comprising:

instructions to ~~receive~~ receive, at the server computer system, a signal from a client system, the signal indicating that a user has identified an electronic document as a prior art reference, the electronic document comprising a set of IDS information for identifying the prior art reference to an official patent office; ~~containing reference information to be disclosed to a patent office, the reference information comprising a set of IDS information that can be used to create an IDS for disclosing the electronic document to an official patent office;~~

instructions to access, in response to the signal, the electronic document at a data source external to the computer system;

instructions to load into the ~~first~~ database at least a portion of the electronic document, wherein the at least a portion of the electronic document comprises the IDS information;

instructions to store, in a reference table, a reference link to the electronic document;

instructions to ~~associate, link,~~ in a case table, the reference link with an identifier corresponding to a first case; ~~case to the reference link;~~ and

instructions to add the IDS information for the electronic document to an electronic IDS for the ~~first case;~~ case via an automated process at the server system;

wherein the electronic document includes information corresponding to a plurality of fields in the electronic IDS, and wherein the instructions to add the IDS information to the electronic IDS comprise instructions to extract the IDS information, via the automated process at the server system, from the electronic document and instructions to store the IDS information, via the automated process and in a format specified by the official patent office, in a corresponding plurality of fields in the electronic IDS.